

## Common elements of the initiatory-chivalric orders in Dacia, the Order of Knights Templar and the symbolic Masonry

### Part IV

First of all, I would like to point out that the first knights are attested in the Pelasg Empire<sup>27</sup>, an empire that had its political and spiritual center in Hyperborea, a fortress that was located by the poet Ovidius, (the one exiled to Tomis by the Romans), even in Dacia. We know this from the Greeks, who claim that they did not have Knights. *“But the inhabitants of northern Greece, namely the Thessalians, appear to us as the first nation in Europe, which had a well-organized war cavalry. The whole people of Thessaly were of Pelasgian nationality and their country was once called Pelasgia<sup>28</sup>.”* We also find out that, from the point of view of the military court, the establishment and organization of the war cavalry, both Greeks, Romans or Egyptians, was also of Pelasgian origin.

In the Romans, the first war cavalry was composed of 300 soldiers made up of the most wealthy citizens (patricians), these being called *“Celeres”* (word of Pelasgian origin as claimed by Densusianu) word from which derives the word *“Călărași”*<sup>29</sup>. As Herodotus tells us, in Egypt, the first class of soldiers was called *“Calasiries”* and a body of 1000 soldiers from them were in the personal guard of the Egyptian pharaohs. The word *“Calasiries”* was transmitted through documents found in a Greek fountain, and corresponds to the archaic Latin *“Celeres”* and to an ancient Romanian form of *“Călușeri”* or *“Calarasi”*. The pronunciation of the word *“Celeres”* was *“Kelereș”* to the Romans, because to them the letter “C” represented the sound “k”<sup>30</sup>.

About the way the Moldovan knights were dressed (the region of Romania today), Archbishop Varențiu notes that they wore a white cap, and underneath, as armor, a short linen coat, stuffed with cotton, three to four inches thick, especially in the part of the shoulders up to the elbows and sewn with thick laces at a distance of one and a half fingers, so that the sword could not penetrate. In other words, the clothing of the Moldovan knights was, in fact, a war tunic sewn with onions, this being worn by even the Romanian princes<sup>31</sup>. The garments of ancient knights, of Pelasgian origin, spread from Greece to Egypt, as Herodotus tells us, were linen garments adorned with laces on the hips named *Calasires*, and above them wore a white woolen coat<sup>32</sup>.

About the Cavalry Orders, we cannot say that the first ones were established in the present territory of our country, but what we can say, with certainty, is that we also existed and had an initiatory and esoteric character, and the symbolic part and by *the Mysteries* that were passed on to them and subsequently found in Christian chivalric orders or even in secret or discrete societies. Certainly in the beginning there was a single cult or order that over time was divided, adopting, certain characteristics depending on the geographical area and the primary

influences from the outside.

Basically, there were three initiatory orders, derived from the same trunk, which had similar characteristics, but which were not yet one and the same entity, over time were confused. These were Knights, Knights of the Danube (Dacians) as an extension of the Thracian Knights. Specifically, the elements that belonged to these cultures and which have spread over time have been linked to the initiation ritual, the oath, symbols and signs of recognition.

If we refer to Danube Knight, it had as main symbolism a triad: A deity fronted by two knights. In the upper registers are also represented the solar deities characteristic of this cult: the Sun, the Moon and the Light, which are associated with the three characters. The divinity surrounded by the two knights in close connection with the Sun, the Moon, the Light of the background, can be associated with what an initiate first sees, that is: the Sun, the Moon, and the one who consecrates it, the Master (or Great Master). as a direct representative of the Divinity. This is done after the applicant has made the initial trips.

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<sup>27</sup> **The Pelasgians** were the first legislators of Europe, and their rulers were later commemorated, becoming deities of other civilizations. The Greeks recognize that the laws, part of the Pantheon of deities and even many customs are taken from the Pelasgians. They had the capital or the political center in the area of the Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic area, identified with Hiperborea (the present territory of Romania), because it was the most fertile area and most conducive to economic, cultural or religious development, as happened with the built civilization. along the Nile. They are identified in some writings with the enigmatic peoples of the seas. Nowadays the Greeks recognize that their foundations are made on Pelasgian perceptions, the Balkan peoples such as the Albanians and claim them as direct ancestors. As far as we are concerned, we have clear evidence that the Pelasgians are ancestors of the Dacians, but it is difficult to identify whether the Dacians represent a direct transformation over the centuries or were formed by merging tribes with them.

<sup>28</sup> Nicolae Densusianu, *Dacia Preistorică*, cu o prefață de Dr. C. I.Istrati, ediție facsimile, Editura Arhetip, București, 2002, p. XLIV

<sup>29</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>30</sup> Nicolae Densusianu, *Dacia Preistorică*, cu o prefață de Dr. C. I.Istrati, ediție facsimile, Editura Arhetip, București, 2002, p. XLV.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibidem*.